



TRANS SAHARA COUNTER TERRORISM PARTNERSHIP

Program Overview

The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) is a multi-faceted, multi-year U.S. Government (USG) program aimed at defeating terrorist organizations by:

- *strengthening regional counterterrorism capabilities,*
- *enhancing and institutionalizing cooperation among the region's security forces,*
- *promoting democratic governance,*
- *discrediting terrorist ideology, and*
- *reinforcing bilateral military ties with the United States.*

The overall goals are to enhance the indigenous capacities of governments in the Pan-Sahel (Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as Nigeria and Senegal) to confront the challenge posed by terrorist organizations in the region. Additionally, TSCTP will facilitate cooperation between the Pan-Sahel countries and Maghreb partners (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) in combating terrorism.

Building Partner Nation Capability

TSCTP is a sustaining program of counterterrorism, democratic governance, and military assistance and includes a public diplomacy component. Its main elements include:

- *Counterterrorism (CT) programs to create a new regional focus for trans-Saharan cooperation, including use of established regional organizations like the African Union and its new Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism in Algiers. These programs include training to improve border and aviation security and overall CT readiness;*
- *Continued specialized Counterterrorism Assistance Training and Terrorist Interdiction Program (TIP) activities in the Trans-Sahara region and possible regional expansion of those programs;*
- *Public diplomacy programs that expand outreach efforts in the Sahel and Maghreb regions, Nigeria, and Senegal and seek to develop regional programming embracing this vast and diverse region. Emphasis is on preserving the traditional tolerance and moderation displayed in most African Muslim communities and countering the development of extremism, particularly in youth and rural populations;*

- *Governance programs that strive, in particular, to provide adequate levels of U.S. Government support for democratic institutions and economic development in the Sahel, strengthening those states' ability to withstand internal threats*
- *Military programs intended to expand military-to-military cooperation, to ensure adequate resources are available to train, advise, and assist regional forces, and to establish institutions promoting better regional cooperation, communication, and information sharing.*

History of TSCTP

TSCTP is an extension of the successful Pan-Sahel Initiative (PSI), completed in early 2004, which focused on Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad. Its goals supported two U.S. national security interests in Africa: waging the war on terrorism and enhancing regional peace and security. Under the PSI, U.S. Africa Command helped train and equip one rapid-reaction company, about 150 soldiers, in each of the four Saharan states to enhance border capabilities against arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and the movement of trans-national terrorists. TSCTP officially kicked off in June 2005 with Exercise Flintlock. U.S. special operations forces train their counterparts in seven Saharan countries, teaching military tactics critical in enhancing regional security and stability.

Support from other United States Government Partners

Other U.S. government agencies also will become active players in this partnership. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working on developing civil society programs in TSCTP countries including distribution of radios in Mali and Niger to help connect the government with local communities and providing governance training and assistance in Chad.

The Department of Defense is supporting TSCTP by working with U.S. Africa Command on Operation Enduring Freedom – Trans Sahara (OEF-TS). This program works with partner nations to provide training and support to partner nations with an emphasis on preventing terrorism and helping to enhance the stability of OEF-TS countries.

Other USG partners that are working with the TSCTP include the Department of Treasury and Federal Bureau of Investigation. While providing an interagency approach to the region, the United States will continue efforts to get participating nations to think regionally about their mutual security concerns.



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Multi-national Support

As a top priority, increasing multinational partner support for TSCTP will build upon existing African regional coalitions such as the African Union and the Economic Community of Western African States. The U.S. State Department is actively engaging other countries and organizations to join TSCTP efforts in the region.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is TSCTP?

TSCTP is a U.S. State Department-led initiative specifically developed to address potential expansion of operations by terrorist and extremist organizations across West and North Africa. Interagency coordination is critical to its success. The partnership comprises the U.S. Maghreb nations: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Sahel nations Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. The partnership also includes Nigeria and Senegal.

What is OEF-TS?

Operation Enduring Freedom – Trans Sahara is the military component of the Trans Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), together with other USG organizations, OEF-TS will help enhance stability and deter terrorist activity on the Africa continent, with an emphasis on greater security in North Africa. U.S. Africa Command is working with international partners to enhance the continent's commerce, education and overall success.

How does OEF-TS support TSCTP?

U.S. Africa Command has conducted train and equip missions in Chad, Niger and Mali, partner nation staff information training and mentorship programs, numerous Joint Planning and Assistance Team (JPAT), and Military Information Support Team (MIST) missions, as well as Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) events and is currently building information sharing that can be used by all of the OEF-TS countries.

What Office within the U.S. State Department has the lead for TSCTP?

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What office at USAID can I contact regarding TSCTP?

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What office at U.S. Africa Command do I contact regarding TSCTP and OEF-TS?

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www.AFRICOM.mil/contactus.asp

